



# Fire and Rescue Department

Fairfax County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Kingstowne Townhouse Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a townhouse fire in the Kingstowne area of Fairfax County at approximately 1:40 p.m., Tuesday, December 14, 2004. The three-story single family townhouse is located at 7025 Bentley Mill Place.

First arriving fire and rescue units reported heavy fire visible from the rear of the structure. An additional alarm was dispatched bringing over 50 emergency personnel to the scene. Firefighters conducted an aggressive attack and brought the fire under control in approximately 50 minutes. Five residents, two adults, and three children were displaced by the fire. The American Red Cross is assisting the displaced residents. Damage is estimated at \$400,000.

The cause of the fire is accidental. A zero clearance fireplace caused the fire.

### Public Service Announcement

The fireplace in your home is a source of warmth and relaxation for your family and friends. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department has experienced three house fires in the past 24 hours caused by fireplaces. Please consider the following safety tips when using fireplaces:

- The chimney should be checked and cleaned by a qualified professional at least once a year.
- Fireplaces should have a sturdy screen across the front to prevent embers from flying or logs from rolling out.
- A spark arrestor across the top of a chimney will prevent sparks from igniting your roof or your neighbors.
- Combustible items, including extra firewood, should be kept at least three feet from the fireplace opening.
- Never use gasoline, kerosene, or any other type of flammable liquid to start a fireplace fire.
- When clearing ashes from the fireplace, be sure to put them into a metal container with a lid in an area where there are no combustibles—never into a cardboard box or paper bag. Otherwise, the embers are capable of smoldering for days with disastrous results.

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NEWS RELEASE